THE EXAMINER.

No. 18. *SUNDAY, MAY* 1, 1808.

THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

Party is the madness of many for the gain of a few.
SWIFT.

No. 18.

ON THE INEQUALITY OF OUR TAXATION, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF SUSTAINING THE MIDDLING CLASS OF THE COMMUNITY.

LORD BACON says, "the blessing of JUDAS and ISSACHAR will never meet that the same people or nation should be both the lion's whelp and the ass between burdens: neither will it be, that a people overlaid with taxes should ever become valiant and martial. No people overcharged with tribute is fit for empire." It is the wisdom and duty therefore of a Government, in order to secure the independence, power, and comfort of a people to render the taxation as easy, by making it as equal as possible, and especially of ours, which is so enormous. Now, the lower rank or labouring part of the community never can have their comforts materially diminished by taxation; for as they manufacture and grow all that their superiors want for their comfort, and almost all they require for their luxury, their population must necessarily be sustained, which can only be by a just proportion of wages to labour, or their superiors would obtain neither necessaries or luxuries. It is on the middling and higher classes therefore that the burden of taxation must weigh, and it is the wise policy and duty of Government to proportion that burden to their respective strengths. By the middling, I mean generally that respectable class which fills up the space between the larger portion of the people who are manually employed, and the smaller who possess independent or other wealth.

Has our Government then, for the last twelve years so fruitful in taxation, poised the scale of equal tribute between the two upper classes? Has it, like an equally kind parent, shewn no invidious preference to any of its children? Alas, it has! With a spirit of insensibility and partiality, it has invaded the comforts of the middling, while the upper class is scarcely affected in its luxuries. This requires no proof, for I burn with indignation when I think of this oppressive preference in the tax for a militia substitute; and not to mention others, the income tax, that worse than Egyptian exaction. I burn with indignation when I think that in the first, a man who resides in the very pleasure-ground of ease and affluence, who is dandled in the very lap of luxury, that such a man should pay no more for a militia substitute, to defend his country, than he whose honourable exertions, whose useful industry, whose rigid economy, with difficulty support his family in decent respectability; that such a man should pay no more per cent. on ten thousand than he who has but two hundred a year. Is it not evident that the latter unfortunate object of financial exaction, after satisfying the demands of the parish, house, land, militia, and other taxes, must be compelled to abstain from some real comfort?—"Yes," says some pretended patriot, "I know it; and he must leave housekeeping for a first floor, the first floor for a garret, the garret for a cellar!" Insolent mockery of an afflicted, patriotic, and patient people. Yes, Englishmen, you must make these sacrifices of comfort even while the sun-shine of ostentatious fashion glares amid the gloom of your dejection, and distracts your sickened ear by the racketing of its numerous equipages by day, and its revelry by night. You must make these sacrifices while luxurious feasts, while sumptuous entertainments, are the perpetual engagements of the upper class in their superb habitations, where wealth "forms with mirth a gay fantastic round." Thus is the middling class assimilated with the lower; that golden mean, in which the best strength and truest felicity of a nation resides, is annihilated, and foreign soon succeeds to domestic subjection. Had Austria, Germany, and Prussia been blest with a numerous middling class, and consequently have enjoyed a larger portion of happiness than was their lot, they would have been animated to a more manly, and doubtless a more successful opposition to France. Oppression half conquers an invaded country; it is the best auxiliary of the invader, and true courage will reside only in the sactified spirit of freedom.

Let no advocate of oppression, no justifier of such unequal taxes as the militia substitute and income taxes, pronounce these complaints dangerous by occasioning discontent among the people, for that taxes must be created, for that money must be had to supply the pressing exigencies of government. True; taxes must be created, and money must be had; but it should be had agreeably to that spirit of equal justice which is the essence of the British Constitution. Those therefore who violate that spirit of equal justice, violate the constitution, and are the only dangerous promoters of discontent, a discontent which it is the duty of every Englishman who regards the inviolability of his civil constitution to urge till he obtains redress;—

a discontent which every Englishman must feel from hardships unnecessarily endured, and respectability uselessly degraded;—a discontent which every thinking man must feel who is the least anxious for the prosperity and independence of his country.—For if, as Mr. Burke has beautifully said, "the Aristocracy is the Corinthian Capital of polished society," the middling rank is the elegant and at least equally useful shaft, connecting it with the base, and the destruction of either would be the downfall of the grand superstructure of British happiness and independence. No; it is an impartial regard to the higher as to the middling and lower classes, which dictates this complaint; for it would require a very few lines to prove that their true interests and happiness are inseparable.

Let the Aristrocracy then shew an eqaal readiness with their inferiors in rank to supply the wants of Government; let them, in addition to the abolition of useless places and pensions of five, ten, fifteen, and twenty thousand pounds a year, bear an equal share of taxes; let them not so openly exhibit their ungenerous attachment to the money of the people, by their indecent rejection of the Reversion Bill, and they will hear no complaints from any individual among that people, for they are loyal to, because they love their Constitution of King, Lords, and Commons. Then, without a murmur, nay, even with eagerness and pride, would they expend the last guinea, and the last drop of blood for their maintainance.

R. H.

Upon the meeting of Parliament in 1690, "the first business of importance the Commons entered upon, was the settling a revenue for the maintenance of the Civil Lists; upon which occasion Sir Charles Sedley made this bold and memorable speech against exorbitant pensions and salaries:"—

"Mr. Speaker—We have provided for the Army, we have provided for the Navy, and now at last a new reckoning is brought us; we must likewise provide for the Lists. Truly, Mr. Speaker, 'tis a sad reflection that some men should wallow in wealth and riches, whilst others pay away in taxes the fourth part of their revenue for the support of the same Government. We are not upon equal terms for his Majesty's service; the courtiers and great officers charge us it were in armour, they feel not the taxes by reason of their places, whilst the country gentlemen are shot through and through by them. The King is pleased to lay his wants before us, and I am confident expects our advice upon it. We ought therefore to tell him *what pensions are too great, what places may be extinguished during the time of war or public calamity.* His Majesty sees nothing but coaches and six and great tables, and cannot therefore imagine the want and misery of the rest of his subjects; he is a brave and a generous Prince, but he is a young King, encompassed and hemmed in by a company of crafty old courtiers. To say no more, some have places of 3000l. some of 6000l. and others of 8600l. per annum; and I am told the Commissioners of the Treasury have 1600l. a piece. Certainly public pensions, whatever they may have been formerly, are much too great for the present war, and it is a scandal that a government so sick at heart as ours is, should look so well in the face. We must save the King money wherever we can; for I am afraid the war is too great for our purses, if things are not managed with all imaginable thrift.—*When the people of England see all things saved that can be saved, and there are no exorbitant pensions nor unnecessary salaries, and all this applied to the use for which it is given*, we shall give, and they shall pay, whatever his Majesty can want to secure the Protestant Religion and keep out the King of France, and King James too, whom, by the bye, I have not heard named this session, whether out of fear, discretion, or respect, I cannot tell. To conclude, Mr. Speaker, let us save the King what we can, and then proceed to give him what we are able."—*Extracted from the Parliamentary Debates.*

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

Paris, April 15.—The King of Spain, on being informed that the Emperor Napoleon intends to go to Bayonne, he has appointed a Deputation to compliment his Majesty, and to accompany him, in case he should think proper to proceed to Spain. This Deputation consists of the Duke De Frias, the Count Fernand Nunnez, and the Duke De Medina Celi, three Grandees of the first rank.

The *Moniteur* contains the following articles from Madrid, dated the 30th and 31st March:—

All the circumstances of the late events are collected, and it is related, amongst other things, that on the 18th, in the evening, the Prince of Asturias said to an Officer of the Guard, *I depend upon you to-night!* and, when this was reported to the guards, they agreed to prevent the departure of the King, and some pistol-shots were exchanged between them and the hussars of the Prince of Peace; but, when the latter saw the people were also rising against them, they filed off, and their master, who had in vain attempted to repair to the palace, was surrounded at his own home, and discovered behind a chest. When he was conveying to the barracks of the Spanish guards he escaped to a loft and hid himself, but being driven from his hiding place, he was taken to the barracks of the Walloon guards, and in his way thither several stones were thrown at him. When arrived at the latter place, he fled into the stables, and concealed himself among the straw.

The people who were assembled before the palace, called loudly to see their Sovereigns. The King and the Prince of Asturias appeared, and were received with shouts of applause. Thereupon the Prince of Asturias repaired to the place where the Prince of Peace was. This unfortunate man appeared before him, his face besmeared with blood, and faint with the loss of blood from the wound in his thigh. He said to the Prince of Asturias "I pray mercy of your Majesty." "Manoel," replied the Prince, "*do you forget that my father is still alive?*" "I must believe that he is dead," answered the other, "because you command here." And it is asserted, that the Prince added, "My father is not dead, but shortly he shall cease to command; and if I am not yet King, I shall soon be one." The Prince went and surrendered the prisoner.

April 16.—According to letters from Bayonne of the 10th inst. his Imperial and Royal Majesty was expected there on the 12th.

The latest advices from Madrid are of the 6th inst. and are to the following effect:—

The Grand Duke of Berg, in the general order issued on the 1st inst. acquaints the army that his Majesty the Emperor and King would, in a very short space of time, place himself personally at their head, and gives it in charge to Gen. Laribosiere to keep them in readiness to perform the necessary salutes upon the occasion. His Highness further expresses his satisfaction at the good understanding which exists between the French and Spanish troops, and says that he had that day, at the particular entreaty of the citizens of Madrid, pardoned a French soldier, but that this should be the last instance of the kind; and he commands the French soldiers to double their respect to the inhabitants.

The first object to which Ferdinand VII. directed his attention on his accession to the throne was to pay up the arrears due to officers and widows on the pension-list, and these he discharged out of the ready-money fund in the possession of the Prince of Peace, which is estimated at 25,000,000 francs. His fortune, exclusive of this sum, is calculated at more than 500,000,000 of francs. The Prince remained at a village about three miles from the capital, strictly guarded.

April 17.—Letters from Genoa of the 8th inst. announce that agreeably to various advices from Italy the combined squadrons of Toulon and Rochefort, under the command of Admiral Gantheaume, were arrived in the gulf of Naples, and that the fleet was in the best condition, and had already attained a great object, that of furnishing the island of Corfu with goods and ammunition, of which it stood in great need. The appearance of so formidable a fleet in that sea, which is now utterly abandoned by the English, leads us to believe that Sicily will now be seriously threatened. All preparations for a landing have, it is said, been made already.

It now appears certain, as it is written from Madrid, that the Prince of Peace designed to take flight with the Royal Family, under English protection, but that this project was destroyed by the Infantas of Spain, more especially by the opposition of the Queen of Etruria. It is said they declared they would rather die than consent to flee.—The Prince of Asturias was on the 7th to leave Madrid, with his Preceptor and the Duke del Infantado, in order to meet the French Emperor.

SPAIN.

Madrid, March 19.—During the last four days, events have occurred which shake the Throne of our Masters. For six months past, the public mind has been greatly agitated; some accused the Prince of the Peace of having concerted with the Queen to destroy the Prince of Asturias—others accused the Prince of Asturias of being at the head of a party to dethrone his father: it was said he had received this project from his wife. Solemn Councils, and long proceedings, followed up by exiles and public acts, far from calming opinions agitated them still more. The French troops, although on the banks of the Ebro, and more than 40 leagues distant from our capital, remained stationary. From the great number of couriers succeeding each other every moment, there seemed to be negotiations, but they were not explained. Our troops had been recalled from Portugal, and advanced by forced marches towards the capital; the Court seemed divided and without a plan; what was ordered one day was countermanded the next: there was neither order nor unity of power. In this state of things, on the 15th of March, a report was spread that the King, who was at Aranjuez, intended retiring to Seville; that a great Council, which was held at the Palace, had so decided, but that opinions were divided; that the Queen and Prince of Peace wanted to depart; and that the Prince of Asturias and his brother wanted to remain. It was soon known, that the troops which were cantoned at Madrid, had orders to leave it; and a general uneasiness prevailed, when a Proclamation from the King, which was published on the 16th, restored a little tranquillity. On the 17th, it was known that the Spanish guards had marched for Aranjuez, and that the two Swiss regiments only remained here. These regiments had long been unpopular in our city. On this intelligence, every body repaired to the avenues of Aranjuez, crying to the soldiers, "Spaniards! will you abandon your country? Will you protect the flight of a Prince who sacrifices his subjects, and who is going to introduce disorder in our colonies? *Shall we have as little spirit as the inhabitants of Lisbon?*" Many of the Ministers, who were not favourable to the King's departure, sent circular letters into the surrounding villages, to warn the people of what was going on, and of the imminent danger of the country. On the 18th, the citizens repaired in crowds to Aranjuez. Relays of horses were already placed on the road to Seville; the troops incumbered the town; and the luggage of the Court was packing up in all the apartments. The night of the 17th to the 18th, was a night of tumult; the house of the Prince of the Peace was protected by his guards, who had a private password; that of the Castle had another. At four o'clock in the morning, the people crowded to the Palace of the Prince of Peace, and were repulsed by his guards; the body guards espoused the cause of the people, and fell upon the Prince's guards; the doors were forced open, the furniture broken, and the apartments devastated. The Princess of the Peace ran to the staircase and was conducted to the King's Palace, with all the respect due to her birth and rank. The Prince of Peace disappeared. Don Diego Godoy, the brother, commander of the body guards, was arrested by his own guards. The King and Queen sat up all the night from the 17th to the 18th. The French Ambassador arrived from Madrid at five o'clock in the morning, and instantly waited on their Majesties. The 18th, a Proclamation from the King, granting the Prince of Peace a release from all his employments, and declaring that he took upon himself the command of his armies, was published at Aranjuez and at Madrid. On the receipt of this intelligence, the people of Madrid again crowded to the house of the Prince of Peace, and to those of the Ministers, in every one of which the furniture and windows were broken. Nobody opposed the tumult—the Captain General was bewildered—while the Swiss regiments remained cantoned in the barracks.

Madrid, March 24.—This morning the Grand Duke of Berg entered our city, at the head of the French army. Joy is expressed on every countenance, and the French have been received with every mark of satisfaction. The excellent condition of the troops,

and the beauty of the regiment of Cuirassiers, have been particularly admired. The Grand Duke alighted at the Admiralty. The Governor, the Grandees of Spain, and the corps of the garrison, paid their respects to him. He received them with great courtesy. The cavalry, and one division of infantry, are in the town. Some divisions are encamped upon the hills. The whole amount to 34,000 men.

April 4.—Colonel Grandsaigne, Principal Aid-de-camp to Gen. Junot, Governor-General of Portugal, passed this day through this city in his way to Burgos, with dispatches for the Emperor, who is anxiously expected at Madrid.—An Ordinance has been published here, which states, that "the King, being highly pleased at the friendly manner in which the people of Madrid received and used the French troops, was much affected to find, that the carelessness and ill-will of a few people should have tended to interrupt the said good understanding; and as such conduct proceeds, perhaps, from a ridiculous and unfounded mistrust of the intentions of the said troops in this kingdom, his Majesty assures his subjects that they have nothing to fear from them, and that the intentions of the French Government, concurring with his own, have no other object than the execution of the grand measures concerted with his Majesty against the common enemy. This Declaration must be sufficient to tranquillize every reasonable person, and to prepare the most friendly treatment for those esteemed guests. If, nevertheless, any person should be so daring and hostile to the two Allied Nations, as to interrupt this reciprocal friendship, either by words or deeds, the public is apprized, that the guilty will be forthwith punished without mercy."

The *Madrid Gazette* of the 31st March contains the following article:—

As the nature of the proceedings which took place in the Escurial is only known by an account which was published the 27th October last year, the King being desirous that all his subjects should know how his royal person acted on that occasion, has ordered a brief account to be published of this business. The 28th of October last year, the late King sent several papers to the Marquis de Caballero, Secretary of the General Department of Justice, which papers, he said, had been found among the papers of the Prince of Asturias, our present King and Sovereign. The first paper is a memoir, the object of which is to represent to the late King the unjust proceedings of Don Manuel Godoy, Prince of Peace. The Prince of Asturias threw himself at the feet of his royal father, requesting him, that an enquiry might be instituted into the truth of the facts stated in the memoir; and if convinced thereof, to dismiss the Prince of Peace from his royal presence, and banish him with his whole family. The Prince of Asturias concluded it by intreating his father, in case he should not approve of the object of his memorial, to have the goodness to keep it secret, in order to avert the dangers to which he (his son) would otherwise be exposed. The following day, at midnight, his present Majesty was called into the apartments of his royal father, where he was arrested, and precluded from all intercourse with any except some new attendants. During the same night all his present Majesty's servants were arrested. On the 30th Oct. the late King sent an order to the Marquis de Caballero, signed the same day and published all over the kingdom, whereby our King and Sovereign was declared a traitor, together with his servants. That order was in the handwriting of the Prince of Peace. The same day, finding himself confined, and precluded from all communication, he deemed it right to make public what he had done for the benefit of his country; and in order to extricate himself from the state of oppression to which he was reduced, he declared to the Marquis de Caballero, that with a view of promoting the prosperity of the Spanish empire, he wished to marry a French Princess of the Blood, and that the steps he had already taken for that purpose were perfectly his own, and without compulsion. At the same time the Prince of Peace arrived at the Palace of the Escurial, and having entered the apartments of his present Majesty, he presented to him the copy of a letter by which his present Majesty was made to ask pardon of his Royal Father. His Majesty being desirous not to refuse this new pledge of his veneration for his Royal Parents, signed the letter which is annexed to the decree of the 5th of November.

Aranjuez, March 21.—From the 16th to the 20th, Madrid and Aranjuez had been the theatre of different tumults, in which the houses of the Prince of Peace, of the Minister Soler, of the Director of the Espicoosa Consolidation, and other Ministers, and of many of the relatives of the Prince of Peace, have been plundered, and the furniture burnt in the public squares; the Prince of Peace has been arrested in the garret of his own house, where he had hidden himself during 36 hours. The tumult continued increasing, the King thought proper, on the 19th, to issue a Decree of Abdication.

ROYAL DECREE.

My habitual infirmities not permitting me to support any longer the important weight of the government of my kingdom; and having need, in order to re-establish my health, to enjoy private life in a more temperate climate, I have decided, after mature deliberation, to abdicate my Crown in favour of my heir, my most beloved son, the Prince of Asturias. Consequently, it is my royal will, that he be forthwith acknowledged King and natural lord of all my kingdoms and sovereignties; and that this royal decree of my free and spontaneous abdication, may be exactly and directly fulfilled, you will communicate it to the Council, and to all others to whom it may appertain.

I, The King.

Given at Aranjuez, the 19th March, 1808.

To Don Pedro Cevallos.

EDICT.

Don Avias Antonio Mor y Velarde, Dean-Governor ad Interim of the Council.

The King, our Master, Ferdinand VII. communicates to me, by sundry orders I have just received, that his Majesty has taken the resolution to confiscate immediately all the goods, chattels, effects, actions, and rights of Don Manual Godoy, wherever they may be found; to which end his Majesty has taken all suitable measures to ascertain which goods belong to him. He has likewise taken the resolution to come shortly to this city, to have himself proclaimed; but his Majesty desires, first, that the people of Madrid, so devoted and so attached to his royal person, should give him proofs of calmness and tranquillity; assuring them, that he has given orders against Don Manual Godoy, his goods, and revenues, which no longer belong to him; that his Majesty thinks most seriously of repairing the wrongs done to his beloved subjects who have suffered for his cause; in fine, he will constantly watch and take every measure capable of securing their happiness. His Majesty also makes known to me, that he has appointed his Excellency the Duke of Infantado, Colonel of his Spanish Guards, conferring on him at the same time the Presidency of Castile. The King, my master, desires also that the persons who have been confined in consequence of the cause prosecuted at San Lorenzo, should return to his Majesty's side. In order that this may be made known to all, and that the loyal people of

Madrid may know how much the King toils for their happiness and welfare, he has ordered me to communicate it to you, which I do by the present.

Madrid, March 29, 1808. Don ARIAS MOR.

THE COUNCIL TO THE PUBLIC OF MADRID.

Nothing ought to disturb the public tranquillity in the happy moment of the exaltation to the Throne of Spain of King Ferdinand VII. His faithful subjects have given his Majesty early proofs of their devotion and love; they must not doubt of his Majesty's affection for them, and of the employ he means to make of the same for the public happiness, and for the fulfilment of the wishes of the people of Madrid. But what is of the greatest importance for the success of the elevated views of his Majesty, is the public order; and that if it may be assured, the Council flatters itself that all the inhabitants of this faithful city will withdraw to their homes, and that they will remain in the greatest tranquillity, persuaded that they will thus give his Majesty, in the first moment of his reign, the surest testimony of the sincerity of their sentiments, and of the acclamations of fidelity which are heard in these days. MUNOZ DE TORRES.

GERMANY.

FRANKFORT, APRIL 13.—Letters from Constantinople of the 6th of March, positively state, that the armistice between the Porte and Russia has been prolonged for two months, within which period a definitive treaty will most certainly be concluded, the principal points in discussion being already agreed upon. It is a fact that the Porte has given its consent to the march of a French army through its territory. The French Ambassador there is incessantly dispatching Couriers towards India.

BANKS OF THE MAIN, MARCH 12.—In consequence of an order issued by the Aulic Council of War, eleven regiments of Croats and Pandours are now assembling, to form a cordon on the Turkish frontiers. This cordon is to consist of 10,000 men, and to be commanded by the Archduke Ferdinand, brother of the Emperor.

BANKS OF THE DANUBE, MARCH 3.—Czerni Georges has ordered his troops to treat with all possible respect the advanced posts of the French troops on the frontiers of Bosnia and Albania. In Servia, arrangements are made which seem to indicate that foreign troops are expected in that country. According to a letter from Bucharest, the Russian troops in Bender and Choczim, are making all necessary preparations for a new campaign.—The Russian corps, consisting of about 10,000 or 11,000 men, who were quartered in Padua, and other towns, have broke up for Udna, whence they are to proceed to Dalmatia.

SWEDEN.

GOTTENBURGH, APRIL 18.—Our last advices from Helsinburgh mention, that as late as the 10th inst, no French troops were in Zealand. Bernadotte, and some other officers, had been in Copenhagen, but had left it, and proceeded to Odensen. A detachment of the Swedish army has entered Norway. Reports from Stockholm, brought by the post of to-day, say, that the Russian army in Finland has halted for want of provisions.

APRIL 19.—The force that is gone against Norway is upwards of 2,000 men, and there seems no doubt, that they will succeed, at all events Sweden itself is secure from any attack in that quarter. The army already on foot (including the above) is 45,000 men in Sweden, 10,000 in Finland, where they have lost very few men; 25,000 supplementary militia are called out, and there is further, a levy between the ages of 18 and 25, of about 28,000 men. The latter are waiting only for the arrival of the ammunition, &c. from England, and in the meanwhile arrangements are making for their preparatory exercise. The greatest unanimity seems to prevail now, and there can be no doubt of the security of the country. From the last arrival from Finland, 31st March, it would seem that the Russians have relinquished the conquest of Finland, further north than the line from Wasa to Knipio, or that want of provisions, and the fear that in the breaking up of the frost the bad roads might bring them into a dilemma; they may, under these considerations, have determined on falling back on their own frontiers. However, whether it is one or the other of the motives that occasions their sudden disappearance, the consequence is, that the Swedes will be enabled to concentrate their forces again in the neighbourhood of Uleberg, or perhaps more to the South, to make a firm stand between that and Tornio.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THURSDAY, APRIL 28.

Lord HAWKESBURY laid on the table several Returns respecting the Danish vessels detained previous to the commencement of hostilities.

Lord SIDMOUTH observed, that an additional Paper was necessary. He should therefore move an Address to his Majesty, praying him to lay before the House Copies of any instructions issued for the detention of Danish vessels, from the 1st of June to the 1st of Sept. 1807. The motion was agreed to; and his Lordship, on the supposition that the desired information would be produced before Tuesday next, gave notice that he should then submit his intended motion on the whole of this subject. The House was accordingly summoned for Tuesday next.—Adjourned.

FRIDAY, APRIL 29.

Lord SIDMOUTH rose to call their Lordships attention to the Returns on the table, relative to the Danish vessels and prisoners. On a more accurate inspection he found that one of them was deficient, and the other proceeded on an entire misconstruction of the order. His present object was merely to move, that a return should be forthwith made to the two orders which he alluded to; and as he was anxious that due information on the whole of this matter should be on the table before he brought on his motion on the subject, he should propose to discharge the summons for Tuesday, for which day it now stood.—He should certainly state more precisely the purport of his motion when he gave notice of a specific day for bringing it on.—Both his Lordship's motions were agreed to.—Adjourned to Monday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TUESDAY, APRIL 26.

EAST INDIA COMPANY.

Mr. GRANT presented a Petition from the Company of Merchants trading to the East Indies, praying for a loan from the country of 2,400,000*l*. This Petition was of great length, and stated the various grounds on which the application was founded, particularly the expences incurred by the Company in different naval expeditions in the

Eastern Seas.—The Petition being read, Mr. Grant moved, that it be referred to the consideration of the Committee appointed to examine into the Affairs of the East Company.

Mr. M. A. Taylor said, the Petition was of great importance, and in so thin a House the question ought not to be agitated. He conceived that previous notice should have been given; he, however, deemed it his duty to oppose it on the ground that the Company had no claim on the country. Their monopoly was an evil which he deprecated as injurious to the spirit of enterprise, and though it had been held out for 24 years, that their affairs were in a prosperous state, yet it was now found they were fatally the reverse; he, therefore, could not consent to have a shilling taken from his constituents, to relieve them, as other countries profited more by the trade than this.

Mr. Creevy thought it useless to grant them a loan, as they could never repay it. They had borrowed three millions last year on Bonds, this year they came to Parliament praying for the aid of 2,400,000l. and if the situation of Europe continued in its present state, they must come again next year for a larger sum. He thought it would be more beneficial to the country at large, to have the trade laid open, than to allow the Americans to run away with the profits of it. With the Company it has long been a losing concern, as they had no surplus capital to carry it on as they should. The system of borrowing money in India, and the large dividends on their stock, was the source of all their evils.

Mr. C. Grant did not wish to take the House by surprise, but he thought it was not fair to bias the Public against the Company, and said that the large dividends was a matter of policy which could not be well avoided.

Mr. Ponsonby conceived this sum as a gift to be levied on the Public, to enable the Company to make a dividend of 10 per cent. It was a serious matter, and ought to have a mature investigation, which he hoped would destroy for ever the delusion which had existed for several years. The question now was, that the country must support them, as they were not able to support themselves. The Report of the Committee, and the whole evidence, should be printed before he suffered 2,400,000l. to go out of the pockets of the people, who ought to be convinced that it was the interest of the nation to continue them as a Company.

Mr. Perceval said, that there could be no objection to have the Petition referred to the Committee, for as the Company had a claim on the Public of several hundred thousand pounds, they had a right to be heard.

Mr. Tierney observed, that it was out of the power of the Company to add to its stock at this moment. It was clear, however, that the Public was indebted to the Company 1,200,000l. The Company, from what had been said, had been hardly dealt with. It was a subject of peculiar delicacy, and no man could say what the consequences might be, in the present state of the country, were any calamity to befal the Company. He deprecated the idea of throwing open the East India Company's trade; when that subject should be agitated, he should argue against it. He said there had been no ostentatious promises made by the Company; but by two Noble Lords, formerly at the head of the Board of Controul (Lords Melville and Castlereagh) had many delusions been held out. The Company was not answerable for these misrepresentations.

Sir J. Anstruther supported the Petition, and contended that it was not claiming money as a gift, but for the purpose of reimbursing the Company for the necessary [illegible] attending foreign wars.

[illegible] remarked, that there seemed to be a [illegible] of public documents from the Company. [illegible] was that of 1803-4, and, from that time, [illegible] information of any kind given, either to [illegible] public, in relation to the situation of the Company's affairs. What he required was, a full, fair, and candid statement of the Company's debts, credits, and assets.

Mr. Dundas said, that all the allegations in the Petition would be realized before the Committee, and then the House would be able to determine for itself. The Hon. Gentleman who had last spoken, had complained of there having been no Budget stated since 1804. The fact was, the accounts had not been received in time, but that was not the fault of the Company. The accounts of last year had been submitted to a Committee, and those of the present year were in a state of preparation. The question was then put and carried.—Adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27.

Mr. Alderman Combe brought in a Bill preventing forcible or fraudulent carrying away of young children, commonly called Child Stealing. Read a first time.

Mr. Tremayne rose to move for leave to bring in a Bill for interring the dead bodies of persons drowned through shipwreck, that might be washed ashore on the coast. The Hon. Gentleman stated that many afflicting instances had occurred, where dead bodies so thrown ashore had been utterly neglected; and other instances had happened, where the dead had been buried in heaps, which was certainly most disgusting and highly improper. There were two recent instances where that had been the case, namely, in the wreck of the Anson frigate, and in that of a transport from Buenos Ayres with troops. He meant to propose that the person finding a dead body so washed ashore, should be compelled to give immediate notice to the parish officers, who should bury the person, the expences of such interments to be defrayed by the County Treasurers. The Hon. Gentleman obtained leave to bring in a Bill accordingly.

Mr. Wardell gave notice, that on Monday, on the Report, he should move a variety of Amendments on the Assessed Taxes Consolidation Bill. Being on his legs, he wished to learn from Ministers, whether the meant to take any steps on the 5th Report of the Committee of Military Enquiry, respecting the Medical Board. He wished to know whether Ministers meant to let the enormities there stated pass unnoticed and unpunished.

Mr. Perceval replied, that the Report alluded to by the Hon. Gentleman, was so voluminous that Ministers had not had sufficient time to turn their attention to it. Of course he could give no answer to the Hon. Gentleman's question.

On the motion of Mr. Forster, the House resolved into a Committee of Supply on Irish Miscellaneous Services. The first resolution proposed by Mr. Foster was a sum of 10,600l. for printing in the Dublin Gazette, and other Newspapers, Proclamations, &c. by the Government.

Mr. Parnell objected to the motion, and stated that he should move as an amendment, that the words, "other Newspapers," be omitted. He was induced to this from the fact of these Newspapers having published, one of them, on the 21st of January last, a Proclamation, prohibiting intercourse with vessels coming from Gibraltar and the Mediterranean, on account of a fever that raged in the garrison at that fortress three years ago. He quoted other instances equally absurd.

Sir A. Wellesley replied, that the Newspapers were paid for their insertions by the Government annually.

Mr. Wyndham contended that the fact of an abuse was admitted, but no ground had been argued for its continuance. These posthumous publications were the effect of mere wantonness, and ought to be checked.

Mr. Malcolm Laing thought the Government wanted to purchase the press of Ireland to itself.

Mr. Croker said, he could account for the insertion of these antiquated Proclamations in the Irish Papers. He had the honour of knowing the Editor of one of them; and

often wondered how he contrived to fill up his paper. His friend told him he felt some difficulty often when the wind was contrary, and the Mails from Britain did not arrive, but he had always a salve for that sore, by putting in a column or two of old proclamations by Government, which were generally kept as standing matter to fill a chasm so occasioned.—*(A laugh.)*

Mr. PERCEVAL said the Hon. Gentleman's objection not being to the amount of the sum, he should wish the grant to pass, as these abuses would be thoroughly investigated by next year.

After a few words from Sir JOHN NEWPORT and Mr. FOSTER, the item was agreed to. 25,000l. Irish currency for the purposes of criminal prosecutions, and other law expences; 937l. ditto, for carrying on the Discoveries which were begun in the gold mines of Wicklow Mountains; 2,000l. ditto, for the Cork Institution; 1,854l. ditto, for repairs of Dr. Stevens's Hospital; 4,038l. ditto, for erecting buildings, in addition to Sir Patrick Dunn's Hospital; 512l. 8s. ditto, to Ed. Kent, for arrears paid through mistake to the Treasury in Ireland; 4,434l. ditto, for Salaries to Lottery-Officers in Ireland.

On the motion of Mr. HUSKISSON, the House resolved itself into a Committee of Ways and Means, when he proposed that the sum of 2,223,000l. 5s. 11d. being the surplus of the Grants of last year, which exceeded the Estimates, be applied to the service of the current year; that the Pay of the Militia of England be provided for from the proceeds of the Land-tax, and that of Ireland from the Consolidated Fund of that Country.—Adjourned.

THURSDAY, APRIL 21.

The House met at the usual hour of four o'clock, but there being only 40 Members present, the House immediately adjourned.

FRIDAY, APRIL 22.

Mr. HUSKISSON, in the absence of Lord Castlereagh, postponed the second reading of the Local Militia Bill, which stood for to-day, till Monday next.

On the motion of Mr. FOSTER, the House resolved itself into a Committee to consider of the Supplies granted to his Majesty, when he proposed that 9250l. Irish currency, be granted towards the support of the College of Maynooth.

Sir J. NEWPORT said, the sum was too small, and proposed an amendment, making it 13,000l. Before the war there had been a considerable number of students educated for the Priesthood in France, Italy, Flanders, Spain, and Lisbon, who were now prevented from going there for their education, therefore it was proper to have them educated at home, and abstract their minds from any foreign principle of politics.

Mr. PERCEVAL contended that the sum now proposed was fully adequate to the number of students which were wanted to supply the Priesthood in Ireland.

Mr. GRATTAN spoke in favour of the amendment, and Mr. CROKER against it.

The Committee divided, when the amendment was negatived, the Ayes being 58, Noes 93.

The House went into a Committee of Ways and Means for Ireland. Mr. FOSTER stated, that the Resolutions he had to move were more matters of regulation than otherwise. With regard to carriages, he did not mean that two should pay so much as the double of one, or that three should pay as the triple of one, and so on. With regard to posting carriages, he meant to lay them aside entirely. He moved resolutions accordingly, which were agreed to.

Mr. LETHBRIDGE moved a resolution for imposing a duty of 5l. 5s. on every double-barrelled gun used in killing game, which was negatived.—Adjourned till Monday.

TUESDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

Admiralty-Office, April 26.

Copy of a Letter from Peter Rainier, Esq. Captain of his Majesty's ship Caroline, dated the 19th of October, 1806, to the Hon. W. W. Pole.

His Majesty's Ship Caroline, off Batavia, Oct. 19, 1806.

SIR,

After putting the former part of your orders in execution, I proceeded to Anger Point, where I obtained information that the enemy's line of battle-ships were all to the eastward. On the morning of the 18th inst. I captured a small brig from Bantam, from whom I learnt that the Phœnix, a Dutch frigate, of 36 guns, was undergoing repairs at Omust; it appearing to me that she might be brought out, I was making the best of my way there, when between Viddlebey and Amsterdam Islands, I discovered two men of war brigs at anchor, one of which I captured, the other made her escape by being too close in for us to pursue her; the captured brig was the Zeerop, of 14 guns, commanded by Capt. Groot. Whilst taking possession of her, I observed the Phœnix slip from Omust, and run for Batavia Road. From the officers of the Zeerop we gained intelligence, that the Maria, a Dutch frigate, was lying in the Roads, manned from the shore, being aware of our approach. A short time after I observed her, and likewise the William sloop of war, with the brig that before escaped us.

As I distinctly made out the frigate to be the largest ship in the Road, I ran for her with springs on both cables; the enemy commenced firing at us as soon as we were within gun-shot, which was not returned till we came as close as the wind would allow us, which was within half pistol shot, when we opened our fire. The action continued about half an hour, when the enemy hauled down their colours: on boarding, she proved to be the Dutch Republican frigate Maria Regersbergen, of 36 guns, eighteen-pounders on the main-deck, and 270 men, commanded by Captain Jager (second in command). The Maria was launched in 1800, and is a fast sailing ship. We had to encounter besides the frigate, the William of 20 guns, Patriot of 18, and Zeeplong of 14 guns, with several gun-boats laying in shore, which did not attempt to come out. I beg leave to state, that when the action commenced, we had short of complement, by men away in prizes, sick at hospitals, &c. fifty-seven in number. I am sorry to say it was not in my power to capture either the Phœnix, William, Patriot, or Zeeplong brig, as his Majesty's ship Caroline and the Maria were after the action in four fathoms water, and surrounded by many dangerous shoals. I anchored both ships in the offing to repair damages. Whilst running out of the Road, I observed the Phœnix, with the vessels above mentioned, and all the Dutch merchant ships, run on shore. As the first brig I captured was of little value, and the crew very sickly, I put as many of the prisoners on board of her as she could carry, and most of the officers, and sent them to Batavia on their parole, after running without the Islands. I have sent Mr. Lemage, my First Lieutenant, in charge of the Maria, whose conduct during the action I am fully satisfied with. And when the superior force is considered that was opposed to us, and the great loss the enemy have sustained, I trust I may be permitted to recommend Lieut. Cressy, who commanded on the main deck, with acting Lieutenants Shink and Pedder, their conduct meeting my highest approbation. I cannot speak too highly of Mr. Bam, the Master, in laying me alongside the Maria, and whose accurate knowledge of the seas enabled me to take the ship into Batavia. The conduct of the Warrant and Petty Officers was much to my satisfaction, as was the brave and steady behaviour of the Seamen and Marines.

I herewith inclose a List of our Killed and Wounded, with the disposition of the enemy's squadron in these seas,

and a list of Ships taken and run on shore by his Majesty's ship under my command. I have the honour to be, &c.

P. RAINIER.

To Rear Admiral Sir T. Troubridge, Bart.

P. S. I have not been able to get a correct account of the killed and wounded on board the Prize, but from the Surgeon's Report they had fifty killed and wounded.

LIST OF KILLED AND WOUNDED.

Killed.—J. Lawson, W. Williams, W. Rickets, Seamen, and four Dutch prisoners, who were in the hold.

Wounded dangerously, since dead.—Lieut. Williams, Royal Marines; Wm. Gibbs, Wm Longmore, J. Teryl, D. Sulivan, Seamen; and E. Barnes, Marines.

Wounded slightly.—T. Pearson, W.M. Thomas, J. Howe, B. Maxwell, J. Lance, M. M'Cormac, J. Morrison, A. Creighton, T. Robinson, R. Brownsdon, W. Isby, and J. Lattrie, Seamen.

List of Dutch Ships taken and run on shore at Batavia, on Oct. 8, 1806, by his Majesty's ship Caroline.

Zeerop, 14 guns, Capt. Groot, taken. Maria Reygersbergen, Commodore Jager, ditto. Phœnix, 36 guns, Capt. Vanderzander, run on shore. Maria Wilhelmina, 6 guns, ditto. William, 20 guns, Capt. Fitters, ditto. Patriot, 18 guns, ditto. Zeeplong, 14 guns, ditto. Seven Merchant Ships.

A Letter from Lord Collingwood, dated on board his Majesty's ship Ocean, at Syracuse, Feb. 23, contains the following dispatch:—

His Majesty's ship Grasshopper, off Carthagena, December 12, 1808.

SIR,

I have to acquaint you, that yesterday, when looking out off Cape Palos, agreeable to your directions, I discovered a number of the enemy's vessels at anchor under the Cape; his Catholic Majesty's brig of war St. Joseph, of 12 twenty-four-pounders, manned with 99 men, and commanded by Don Antonio de Torres Ténionte de Naviro, got under weigh, and came out to attack his Majesty's sloop Grasshopper, under my command, accompanied by the vessels of war, belonging to his Catholic Majesty, named in the margin* ; the St. Joseph I brought to close action, when, after fifteen minutes resistance, she struck her colours, and ran on shore, upon which I anchored, and with the greatest exertions of the officers and ship's company succeeded in getting her off; the other two vessels bore up, and made all sail from us, the moment the brig struck, or I have no doubt we should have captured the whole of them. I beg to observe, that I received every assistance possible from Lieut. Cornelius Wellis, whose good conduct on this and every other occasion merits my warmest thanks; the conduct of all the officers and men gave me the greatest satisfaction. In this affair we had two men severely wounded; the loss of the enemy I could not ascertain, as a number of them jumped overboard, and I fear a great number of them were drowned. The St. Joseph is only six years old, is copper fastened, well found in every respect, sails remarkably fast, is pierced for 10 guns, is 145 tons burthen, and in my opinion, well calculated for his Majesty's service.—I have the honour to be, &c. (Signed) T. SEARLE, Capt.

To Sir Thomas Livingstone, Bart.

* St. Medusa Mestrio, ten 24-pounders, and 77 men; St. Aigle Mestrio, eight 24-pounders, and 50 men.

A letter from Rear-Admiral Purvis to Vice-Admiral the Right Hon. Lord Collingwood, contains the following detailed account:—

His Majesty's Ship Alceste, in Shore, off Cadiz, April 4, 1808.

SIR,

I have the honour to inform you, that when at anchor to-day with his Majesty's ship Mercury and Grasshopper brig, St. Sebastian's Lighthouse S. E. distance three miles, wind W.S.W. a large convoy of the enemy was discovered coming close along shore from the northward, under the protection of about 20 gun-boats, and a numerous train of flying artillery on the beach. At three P. M. I made the signal to weigh and attack the convoy, and stood directly in for the body of them, then off the town of Rota; at four, the enemy's shot and shells from the gun-boats and batteries going far over us, his Majesty's ships opened fire, which was kept up with great vivacity until half past six, when we had taken seven of the convoy, and drove a great many others on shore on the surf; compelled the gun-boats to retreat, which they did very reluctantly, and not until two of them were destroyed; and actually silenced the batteries at Rota, which latter service was performed by the extraordinary gallantry and good conduct of Capt. Searle, in the Grasshopper, who kept in upon the shoal to the southward of the town so near as to drive the enemy from the guns with grape from his 32 pound carronades, and at the same time kept in check a division of gun-boats that had come out from Cadiz to assist the others engaged by the Alceste and Mercury. It was a general cry in both ships, "Only look how nobly the brig behaves!" The situation of our little squadron was rather a critical one, tacking every 15 minutes close on the edge of the shoal, with the wind in, frequently engaged both sides; in the heat of the action, the First Lieutenant, Allen Stewart, volunteered to board the convoy, if I would give him the boats. I was so struck with the gallantry of the offer, that I could not refrain from granting them, although attended with great risk. He went, accompanied with Lieut. Pipon and Lieut. Hawky, of the Royal Marines, who most handsomely volunteered to go, as their party were chiefly employed working the ship; Mr. Arscott and Mr. Day, Master's Mates; Messrs. Parker, Adair, Crooker, M'Caul, and M'Lean, Midshipmen; they were soon followed by the Mercury's boats, under the command of the First Lieut. W. O. Pell, accompanied by Lieut. Gordon, and Lieut. Whylock, Mr. Ducain, and Mr. M. R. Cummings, Master's Mates. The boats, led by Lieut. Stewart, pushed on in the most gallant manner, boarded and brought out seven tartans from under the very muzzles of the enemy's guns, and from under the protection of the barges and pinnaces of the Combined Fleet, which had by that time joined the gun-boats. I was greatly indebted to Lieuts. Hickman and Jervoise (who both wished to go in the boats) for the spirited and well directed fire they kept up from the main deck; also to Mr. Westlake, the Master, for his great attention to the steering and working of the ship; and I have much pleasure in adding, that the officers, seamen, and marines, behaved with the utmost bravery and coolness. Capts. Gordon and Searle, whose gallantry and excellent conduct it might be presumption in an officer of my standing in the service to comment upon, also report upon the great bravery and coolness of their respective officers, seamen, and marines. It is with much pleasure I have to add, the frigates have received no material damage; the Mercury, an anchor shot away, her sails and rigging cut though not much; our sails and rigging in the same way; but the Grasshopper, I am sorry to say, is a great deal damaged in the hull, the main topmast shot through, shrouds, sails and running rigging cut almost to pieces; she had one man mortally wounded, the gunner and two others wounded, but not severely. The captured vessels are all loaded on government account for the arsenal at Cadiz; and, I am happy to say, there is a very considerable quantity of valuable ship timber. The zest of this little service was greatly heightened by being performed in the mouth of Cadiz harbour, and in the teeth of 11 sail of the line. I have, &c. MURRAY MAXWELL.

Rear-Admiral Purvis, &c. &c. &c.

[A Letter from Vice-Admiral Dacres, dated on board the Shark, Port-Royal, 20th Feb. incloses two dispatches from Capt. Campbell, of the Decouverte, who cruizing down the south side of St. Domingo, has been fortunate enough to fall in with some of the enemy's privateers, has captured one, and destroyed another and her prize; much

credit is due to Lieut. Campbell for his activity in this service. There were six men wounded on board the Decouverte.—A second Letter from Vice-Admiral Dacres, incloses two Letters from Capt. Broughton, of the Meleager; one reporting the capture of a felucca-rigged French privateer by the boats; the other a Spanish letter of marque, with a cargo, by the ship.—Another Letter from Vice-Admiral Dacres incloses a Letter received from Capt. Coghlan of the Elk, stating the capture of a French schooner privateer, called the Harlequin, carrying two carriage guns, and a quantity of small arms, having on board 54 men.]

DIVIDENDS.

May 28. T. Corlett, Friday-street, warehouseman.—May 28. G. Tod, King's-road, surveyor.—May 21. T. Surr, Charing-cross, wine-merchant.—May 21. R. Willson, West Smithfield, tobacconist.—June 1. J. Bell, Fleur-de-lis-street, Spitalfields, soap-manufacturer.—July 2. G. Grimes, Great Warner-street, linen-draper.—May 3. C Glover, Albemarle-street, upholsterer.—June 9. J. Saunders, Ealing, maltster.—May 18. T. Haynes, Oundle, Northamptonshire, nurseryman.—June 13. J. Bradshaw, Hungerford, maltster.—May 18. W. Smith, Plymouth, silversmith.—May 23. T. Gillam and W. Weaver, Worcester, drapers.

CERTIFICATES—May 17.

A. Lister, Marsh Chappell, Lincolnshire, grocer.—T. I. Watkis, Salford, cotton-merchant.—W. Gregg, James-street, Buckingham-gate, money-scrivener.—T. Bowen, Rhodiad, Pembroke, shopkeeper.—P. Odell, Sloane-square, bricklayer.—W. A. Downs, Brewer-street, undertaker.

SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

Admiralty-Office, April 30, 1808.

Vice-Admiral Campbell, Commander in Chief of his Majesty's ships and vessels in the Downs, has transmitted to the Hon. W. W. Pole, a Letter which he had received from Capt. Sturt, of his Majesty's sloop Skylark, dated the 25th inst. stating, that on the preceding day he had captured the Furet, a French privateer, pierced for 14 guns, (but had only six on board) manned with 48 men, out two days from Boulogne, and had not made any capture.

This Gazette contains a notice of a general Promotion of Flag-Officers, and the following Captains have been added to the list of Rear-Admirals of the Blue, viz.—Captains Fancourt, Bullet, Hon. R. Stopford, Robinson, Shivers, Cobb, Pickmore, Hall, Dilkes, Lechmere, Foley, Tyler, Reynolds, Watson, Hon. A. H. Gardner, Dixon, Mitchell, Hart, and Bertie.

BANKRUPTCY SUPERSEDED.

E. Rimington, Liverpool, timber-merchant.

BANKRUPTS.

Robert Byran, Greek-street, Soho, tallow-chandler, to surrender May 7, 14, June 11, at ten, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Sweet, King's-Bench-walks, Temple.

Walter Mason, Heartley-place, Kent-road, brandy-merchant, May 3, at twelve, 7, June 11, at one, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Rippon, Bermondsey-street.

Richard Wickstead, Carr-lane, scrivener, May 10, 14, June 11, at one, at Guildhall, Attorney, Mr. Falcon, Elm-court, Temple.

Henry Hieronymus Decon, Tokenhouse-yard, stock-broker, May 7, 14, June 11, at ten, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Hackett, Chancery-lane.

Mary Baily, Lower James-street, Golden-square, fancy trimming-maker, May 3, 14, June 11, at ten, at Guildhall. Attornies, Messrs. T. and S. Naylor, Great Newport-street, Long-Acre.

John Mosely, Swimfleet, Howden, Yorkshire, potatoe-merchant, May 3, 14, June 11, at Guildhall, London. Attornies, Messrs. Bourdillon and Hewitt, Little Friday-street, Cheapside, London.

Alexander M'Lachlan and John Galt, Great St. Helen's, factors, May 3, 17, June 11, at twelve, at Guildhall. Attornies, Mess. Swain, Stevens, and Maples, Old Jewry.

DIVIDENDS.

June 7. B. Dewdney, sen. Reigate, Surrey, horse-dealer.—May 24. W. Lucas, Cheapside, warehouseman.—May 31. R. Chandler, Shoreditch, cheesemonger.—May 28. U. A. Henricks, Jeffries-square, London, merchant.—May 21. J. Waybran and J. Gerrard, Swan-street, Minories, cornfactors.—Ben. Hoddinott, Bruton, Somersetshire, linen-draper.—May 23. T. Matthews, Bristol, bookseller.—May 21. G. Smith, Sweeting's-alley, insurance-broker.—May 28. R. Porter, St. Alban's, shopkeeper.—May 24. T. Squire, and T. Squire, jun. Stoke-Damarel, Devonshire, tin-plate-workers.—May 21. J. and W. Wilson, Dean's-court, warehousemen.—May 25. J. Tweddell, Liverpool, sadler.—May 24. J. Johnson, Macclesfield, cotton-spinner.—May 24. Wm. Bryan, Camberwell, merchant.—May 31. J. Annandale and E. Jacklyn, of Dowgate-hill, rag-merchants.—May 26. F. Beesley and T. Owen, Rood-lane, wine and brandy-merchants.—May 21. S. Fletcher, Great Russell-street, chinaman.—May 27. R. Chamberlain, Wisbech St. Peter's, Cambridgeshire, grocer.—May 31. C. Glover, Albermarle-street, Hanover-square, upholsterer.

CERTIFICATES—May 21.

N. Hurry and C. H. Jones, Liverpool, merchants.—W. Busby and I. Hill, Strand, hatters.—H. Martin, of Suffolk-street, Birmingham, horn button-maker.—T. Rutt, Dalston, Middlesex, stock-broker.—T. Redfern, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, surgeon.—A. T. Bowler, Kent-street, grocer.—G. Eadon, Bermondsey-street, leather-dresser.—F. Francis, Chiswick, smith.

PRICE OF STOCKS YESTERDAY.

Consols.....66⅛ | Red. Ann. 65⅝

THE EXAMINER.

LONDON:

SUNDAY, MAY 1.

The French Emperor, who has so long influenced the conduct of the Spanish Government, has obtained a direct and absolute controul over it, by the change occasioned by his intrigues, and the hatred of the Spaniards to the Prince of the Peace. Yesterday morning we received *Paris* Journals to the 18th, and *Dutch* to the late date of the 23d ult. from which we give very interesting articles relative to Spain. Every incident demonstratively proves that Napoleon was the prime mover in the late as well as the present more successful conspiracy to dethrone the late King, and that the Prince of Asturias has become King on the vile terms of complete vassalage. The transactions from the time of the first conspiracy to the consummation of the last, and of French power, shews the usual caution, the wary, gradual advances of Napoleon to the fruition of his designs; a caution particularly requisite with a nation which has been famous for its heroism. If the French accounts could be im-

plicitly relied on, deplorable indeed must be the political and religious condition of the Spaniards, if they hailed the arrival of foreign troops to dispossess them of national independence. But it is indifferent to a slave to which tyrant he belongs. The Spanish slave could hardly have a worse one in his government, and he perhaps hopes that even French domination may be a change for the better.

The abject subserviency of the new Spanish King proves his meanness of intellect and spirit, his total degeneracy from old Spanish dignity. He will most likely receive a congratulatory letter from his *brother* King, the *magnanimous* ALEXANDER of Russia.

The Grand Duke of BERG entered Madrid on the 24th March. On the 7th, the new KING set out to meet the FRENCH EMPEROR, to pay him his royal respects, or more properly, to do personal homage to his master, for the crown he has given to him. This deluded Prince will hereafter repent of receiving this boon from the blood-stained hands of his present *good ally*, an Imperial JUDAS ISCARIOT, who hails as friends those whose destruction he is plotting. If such is his treacherous conduct to his allies and friends, what would be the doom of his enemies, especially of Britain, were she to be subjected to his power?

The French troops at Madrid amount to 54,000.

The armistice between the Russians and the Turks is prolonged. The PORTE has permitted the march of a French army through Turkey in its way to India. Considerable bodies of troops are marching from France into the north of Germany, and from Germany towards Italy and Spain: 60,000 French troops are on the coasts of the Baltic.

The intelligence from Sweden is of a very pleasant nature. The Russians are retreating in Finland, in consequence of their lack of provisions, and the melting of the snow, which would have engulphed them in danger, if not in destruction. The skill of the Swedish General, Count KLINGSPOR, is much praised. His retreat with an inferior force is compared, in private letters, with the famous retreat of MOREAU from Germany, which was equal in merit, say military men, to the renowned retreat of XENOPHON and his 10,000 Greeks. Other Swedish officers are highly praised, as well as the courage of the subalterns and troops. Every thing may be expected from such noble fellows, backed as they are by the patriotism of the citizens of Sweden, if the immense and veteran soldiery of the French in the Baltic can be prevented joining the Russians. The fate of the Swedish war depends on this.

A revolution in Russia is said to have taken place. Where the intellects of the Monarch, like those of ALEXANDER, are weak, nothing is more likely or more frequent in an arbitrary government, the nobles and people having no other remedy against obstinate folly and oppression but violence. Thus the late Emperor was murdered, and thus that Monarch's wife, the famous CATHERINE seized the throne and murdered her royal husband. Russia has indeed been for centuries back fertile in these changes. The people of Russia, however, though they dislike the mean politics of ALEXANDER, are said to be attached to him, and so is the army. Beside, the French party among the nobles is as numerous as the English are, and more active, and French money, a most powerful auxiliary, is circulated by NAPOLEON throughout the Russian Court, which is the most debauched and corrupt in Europe. The report of a revolution therefore is not much credited.

It is now certain that the Rochefort squadron entered the Mediterranean, put into Toulon, and sailed in conjunction with the Toulon squadron. Most of the Dutch Papers state, that they entered the Adriatic. Their first object is said to have been to provision Corfu; they then proceeded to the Gulph of Naples to invade Sicily. Accounts from Naples and Venice say, that they were in the Adriatic; one squadron off Tarentum, another off Corfu; that they provisioned Corfu, and ordered the Russian ships at Venice and Trieste to put to sea and join them. It is evident they were in the Adriatic as late as the middle or end of March. Lord COLLINGWOOD having heard of their place of rendezvous, was proceeding after them. He was off Maretimo, a little island on the western point of Sicily, on the 9th of March. It is possible he might get into the Adriatic before they left it, and being in a sort of *cul de sac*, it would be difficult for them to quit it without hazarding an engagement. Two English frigates and a brig are said to have been captured in the Adriatic.

The *Diana* frigate, just arrived at Plymouth from off Rochefort, is said to have spoken a neutral from Rochefort, who informed her that a report of an action in the Straits between the English and French fleets was current there; that 1 sail of the French line had been blown up, 2 sunk, 8 taken, and that 5 escaped. It is also reported that the *Franchise* French frigate and a transport, from Corunna, are taken.

The Expeditions have not yet sailed either for the Baltic or the Mediterranean. Troops are constantly embarking at the various ports; and it is expected they will proceed for their destination in a day or two.

The French frigates La Themis and La Penelope have arrived safe at Toulon, from a sixty-five days cruize, in which they took or destroyed seventeen English ships, six of which belonged to a convoy bound to the West Indies. The cargoes of these ships are worth 7,500,000 francs.

It is reported that a serious conflict has taken place between the French soldiers and the oppressed inhabitants of Warsaw, in which many lives were lost on both sides.

The Princess of WALES, accompanied by her Mother, the Duchess of BRUNSWICK, favoured Covent-garden Theatre with their presence on Friday night, to see the *Two Gentlemen of Verona*. Her Royal Highness was dressed in a white satin pelisse. The Duchess of BRUNSWICK was in mourning. They occupied Mr. KEMBLE's private box. The House was very fashionably and fully attended.

Mr. FERGUSON was recently married to the late Countess of ELGIN.

A gentleman wrote to a bookseller, "I want to stock the library, my *literary larder*, with something *solid* for the nourishment of my mind. Do not omit to send me *Bacon*."

THEATRICAL EXAMINER.

No. 17.

SHAKSPEARE'S MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR,—QUEEN ELIZABETH, AND QUEENS,—THE SUPERIORITY OF PERUSING, OVER WITNESSING THE REPRESENTATION OF SHAKSPEARE—ILLUSTATED BY A BAD PERFORMANCE OF HIS MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR.——MR. COOKE'S FAILURE IN FALSTAFF—HIS IGNORANCE OF THE CHARACTER,—MR. BLANCHARD'S SUPERFLUITIES IN SIR HUGH EVANS—AND MR. LISTON'S DEFICIENCIES IN MASTER SLENDER.

COVENT-GARDEN.

As there has been, during the past week, no theatrical novelty to dictate the choice of criticism, I take the liberty of selecting for myself the examination of SHAKSPEARE'S *Merry Wives of Windsor*, which was performed, with no great credit, on Wednesday evening.—It is a curious circumstance, and not very flattering to the partiality of Englishmen for *good Queen Bess*, that this too indecent play was written at the express desire of Queen ELIZABETH, who wished to see *Falstaff* in love. Now a woman of ELIZABETH'S sense could have anticipated nothing but mere grossness in the love of such a man as *Falstaff*; the poet seems to have felt the royal taste, and the amatory speeches of *Falstaff* would have disgraced PETRONIUS himself. One cannot recollect, without a feeling of ludicrous contempt, the everlasting praises which SPENSER and the other contemporaries of SHAKSPEARE bestowed on the *maiden* virtues of ELIZABETH, a woman who was a compound of political wisdom, malicious envy, blind vanity, and a very maiden partiality for married men. It is a melancholy, perhaps an ungallant reflection, that when the most illustrious women have attained the height of power and the means of gratifying their inclinations, they have in most instances given loose to a hundred vicious propensities: almost all the females who have reigned alone have been excellent monarchs and bad women. CHRISTINA of Swedon, CATHERINE of Russia, and our own *glorious* ELIZABETH, have all been guilty of blood, have all shown themselves something more and something less than women. I know not whether there was not a satirical feeling in the old Hungarian Nobles, when they abolished the title of *Queen*, and called their female monarchs *Kings*.

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It must be very little more than that superstitious veneration for the name of SHAKSPEARE in which the English are said to indulge, that can tolerate the mangled and unintelligible performances of his plays which they so frequently and so patiently sit out. The works, and especially the comedies of SHAKSPEARE, to be correctly spoken, require the assistance of a perpetual comment, an article of which few attendants at the theatre have much to spare; so that the actor's only alternative is, to fritter down his text, or to give no effect to his character, to murder his author, or to save himself. It is for this reason, added to those, that many of SHAKSPEARE'S performers show themselves to be quite as ignorant of their author as their audience can be, and that many perform their parts as badly as they read them, that his plays are not on the stage what they are in the closet. There we can conjure up every perfection of countenance, speech, costume, and scene, without having the personal defects of the actor to overlook, his habitual affectations to wink at, and his unlearned readings to pardon; without being distracted by the anachronisms of the dress-maker, annoyed by the blunders of the scene-painter, or awakened by the stupidities of the property-man. If most of the performances of SHAKSPEARE'S plays must be dull to those who have not critically read them, to those who have they must be not only dull but painful.

I am perhaps more severe upon SHAKSPEARE performances, than I otherwise should be, from the great disappointment I experienced on Wednesday evening, at the representation of the lively comedy, whose pruriency I have regretted, and in which I expected so much from the genius of Mr. COOKE in *Sir John Falstaff*, and from the powers of Mr. BLANCHARD and Mr. LISTON in *Sir Hugh Evans* and *Master Slender*. Setting aside all the anachronisms that were but too observable in the *getting up*, as it is called, of this play; to say nothing of the view of the present Windsor Castle, with which one of the scenes presented us, or of the light, modern, painted chairs, and table on castors, with which another was furnished; the *Merry Wives of Windsor* was on Wednesday night performed in a style, for the characterization of which, among other wise purposes, the word *bad* has been invented. Mr. COOKE'S *Falstaff* comes decidedly under this description: it is true, what artfulness there is in the character is well depicted by his self-satisfactory soliloquies; but Mr. COOKE should recollect that *Falstaff* trusts to his social qualities for his success with the wives of *Page* and *Ford*; and where, in the performance of this gentleman, is the good-humour, the vivacity, the sparkling eye, the never-failing wit, of *Falstaff*? What right has Mr. COOKE'S performance of the character to the brilliant and fantastic associations, with which the ideas of *Falstaff* abound? Mr. COOKE preserves one rigid tenor of countenance, which looks as if it had been borrowed of his *King Richard* for a whim, and forgotten to be returned; and as for his voice, it has no more variety or humour, than would serve him for his *Mac Sycophant* or his *Mac Sarcasm*, characters of which, in many of its catches, it greatly reminded me. I cannot accuse Mr. COOKE of throwing away much pains upon a part, to which he will never be able to give effect; for, from several traits of his performance of *Falstaff*, I am convinced that he has no more studied his character than caught it. When *Mrs. Quickly* tells him, after her communication of *Mrs. Ford's* assignation with him, that he has "charms," meaning that he has recourse to witchcraft, Mr. COOKE takes the word in its present acceptation, and bows and ha's to the compliment; and this notwithstanding the next two speeches direct him to the right interpretation of the word, by making him say, "Not I, I assure thee; *setting* the attraction of my *good parts aside*, I have

no *other* charms;" and by making *Mrs. Quickly* rejoice at this absence of witchcraft, by replying, "Blessing on your heart for't!" Mr. COOKE, as an actor of SHAKSPEARE, should have known that *Othello* is accused of gaining the affections of *Desdemona* by magic; and as an actor of *Falstaff*, he should have known that the knight, in *King Henry the Fourth*, accuses the Prince of "giving him *medicines* to make him love him." Mr. COOKE too, should have brought his knowledge, at least of the character of *Falstaff* in *Henry the Fourth*, to the illustration of the following passage in the *Merry Wives of Windsor*: "— and I paid nothing for it neither, but was *paid* for my learning." Now the man who had in the *Falstaff* of *Henry the Fourth* bragged, that in his encounter with the thieves at Gadshill "seven of the eleven he *paid*," should have shown by some shrug of his shoulders, that he was aware, that all the "*payment*" *Falstaff* got "for his learning," in the play before us, was in much the same specie as that which he pretended to squander so profusely upon his antagonists, in *Henry the Fourth*. Upon the whole, Mr. COOKE's *Falstaff* has convinced me of what I had always wished to doubt, the narrow sphere of an excellence so brilliant. He seems to have spoiled himself by his own masterpiece, like the bird that expired under the exertions of its own singing: he has attained perfection in *Sir Pertinax Mac Sycophant*; but it is at the expense of an unconquerable brogue, and of that great fault of which those actors are guilty, who

"Still introduce their fav'rite part in all."

I am sorry to see Mr. BLANCHARD overcolour his characters so generally as he has lately done. Of the Welch Parson, *Sir Hugh Evans*, he caught neither the dialect nor the humour; and yet he contrived to make the galleries laugh. This is a very bad sign in a comedian: when an actor comes off the stage amidst roars of laughter, there are little hopes of him. What respect should we have for his comic talents who was the life of a pot-house? There is as much difference between a high and a low comedian as there was between BURKE and FOOTE, of whom Dr. JOHNSON said, that if the former were to go into a stable, the ostler would say, "There has been a very extraordinary man here," but he would not understand him; while, if he were to meet the latter, he would find himself a match for him directly. "Ay, Sir," said BOSWELL, in his usual style of echo, "the ostler would give him as good as he brought." "Yes, and FOOTE would have answered the ostler." I am decidedly of opinion that the duel scene in the play before us was wrongly played throughout. I am not clear that *Master Shallow's* observation, "keep a gamester from the dice, and a good student from his book, and it is wonderful," authorises *Sir Hugh* to come upon the ground with a folio in his hands; but I am very certain that the disjointed scraps of songs, which *Sir Hugh* sings to keep up his spirits, should not be read from this folio: one of these songs is part of MARLOW's exquisite ballad, "Come, live with me, and be my love," which not only could never have been published in folio, but would have been given more correctly than SHAKSPEARE has quoted it, had he intended it to have been *read* by *Sir Hugh*. Between two lines of this poem, *Sir Hugh* sings a remnant of an old version of the Psalms, which could never have found it's way into the same book that contained MARLOW's song, a circumstance which plainly points out that *Sir Hugh* trusted to his memory, and not to his book, for the cordial he gives his courage, and that his clerical profession could not help intruding a line of sacred verse, into what he intended should be as lively as possible. Mr. BLANCHARD too sang the whole of *Sir Hugh's* ditties to a solemn psalm tune, when he might have shewn his judgment by singing them to the actual tune of "Come live with me," which is preserved by Sir J. HAWKINS, and printed in REED's SHAKSPEARE. But Mr. BLANCHARD's object was mirth, and for your true merriment, there is nothing like your nightcap and your buffoonery.

If Mr. BLANCHARD acted beyond his character because he could not act up to it, Mr. LISTON fell short of his, when he might have reached it. He seemed to understand the humour of *Master Slender*, and no one can doubt of his ability to express it; but I could not help thinking that had he studied his part a little longer, he would have lost that anxiety, which he sometimes seemed to betray, and betrayed that humour, which he sometimes seemed to have lost. This may be saying little more than the connoisseur in the Vicar of Wakefield, who was always of opinion that the artist would have made a better picture, had he taken more pains; but I have often thought that Mr. LISTON looked as if he was afraid he should forget his part, and I will do him the justice to say his fears have sometimes been well founded.

B. F.

THE OPERA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR—The lovers of music were on Tuesday evening gratified with an opera of most extraordinary beauty, although disgraced by a most absurd representation. This opera, called *Le Feste d' Iside*, was produced for the first time at CATALANI's benefit on the preceding Thursday, with the express purpose of exposing her figure in male attire, in the character of *Sesostris*. This is a species of indelicacy to which the actresses on the English stage have not arrived, for although little modesty can be expected in their profession, they have not yet suffered avarice entirely to banish all pretensions to it. The literary part of this opera is unworthy of remark. The author very gravely informs us that very little information respecting *Sesostris* has descended to posterity, he has therefore thought proper to deviate from that little, and produce the plot from his own invention, preserving only the name of the great conqueror.

The music of this opera is by NASOLINI, whose compositions are remarkable for the utmost elegance and refinement. The overture is a very noble composition, consisting of a grand adagio and an allegro maestoso of great spirit and fancy. The opera abounds with beautiful songs, duets, trios, and chorusses, from which it is difficult to select any as more particularly deserving of observation, where such uniform excellence exists. The recitative possesses very uncommon beauty and originality: NASOLINI appears partial to that species of it where the instruments continue the chords while the voice part is moving. This kind of composition is introduced with great success in Dr. CALLCOTT's celebrated glee of *Abelard and Eloisa*.

The present company is totally incompetent to the proper representation of any opera, for the abilities are confined to one performer, upon whose extraordinary merit the manager relies entirely for his success. Thus some of the noblest songs are lavished on performers, whose miserable singing appears still more ludicrous from its contrast with the fine accompaniments; a long and splendid symphony prepares the audience for something excellent, when they are disappointed by the singer opening his mouth, which is the only sign they have that the song is begun. From the weakness of their voices, the air is totally lost, and the composition consequently incomplete; it is like performing an overture without the first violin. Madame CATALANI becomes more and more a singer of mere trick. There is nothing pleasing in the retention of a note till she is as breathless as the exhausted receiver of an air pump, nor in the chromatic runs which are introduced on every occasion of joy or sorrow. As an actress she has no talent for serious opera. Her mouth is distended in a perpetuity of grin, which is moderated neither by affliction nor death. *Sesostris* must indeed have been a very merry personage to be convulsed with laughter when he calls to remembrance the loss of his child, or undertakes a fearful passage through the gloomy regions of Tartarus, surrounded by devils of the blackest hue. Yet this grin never moderates, and her enthusiastic admirers venture to affirm that she could not sing without it; if this were the case, she must at once be pronounced totally unfit for tragedy; but the idea is absurd; nothing but a lock-jaw could compel such an unnatural distortion. We might as well be told that Mr. KEMBLE could not avoid pronouncing odius, *ojus*, or that Mr. POPE could not paint excellent miniatures, without being a bad actor. Madame DUSSECK appears to more advantage, as a singer, in this opera than in any other; but from her strange dress, closely wrapped round her face, she appeared to be labouring under the agonies of an inveterate tooth-ach. ROVEDINO is of all men the least adapted to the performance of a high priest, from whose religion and age we are inclined to look for mildness. His turbulent voice and violence of manner would make one imagine that he belonged to one of those numerous sects, who seem to think that piety consists in terrific yells, and virtue in furiously beating a pulpit cushion.

The writer of the opera and the performers are rivalled in absurdity by the ignorance of the scene painter, who should have known better than to introduce Roman or Grecian architecture in Egypt, at the early age in which *Sesostris* is supposed to have lived. In the scene of Elysium and Tartarus, which are brought together for the sake of contrast, he has, by the wintry coldness of colouring, rendered the Elysian Fields one of the most uncomfortable prospects that can be conceived, so that the Tartarean gulph appears much more inviting than the abodes of the happy. Of the human figure he is totally ignorant, and consequently, in his attempts to delineate it, completely ridiculous. The statue of *Isis* was one of the most ludicrous figures I ever beheld; it had all the appearance of a vulgar cook sitting down with a basting ladle in one hand and a kitchen poker in the other, so that my imagination carried me still farther, and I thought I saw in her priests a company of epicures, who were paying their devotions to Mrs. GLASSE, or some other dignified professor of the culinary art.

H. R.

FINE ARTS.

ROYAL ACADEMY.

Yesterday the President and Members of the Royal Academy met at their annual dinner, previous to the opening of its annual Exhibition to the public to-morrow, which contains many admirable pictures by the President, Academicians, and others, which we shall particularize hereafter. Mr. Wilkie's *Card-players* rivals the finest specimen of the Dutch school. Mr. Devis adds lustre to the genius of the Exhibition; his portrait of Colonel Alexander Davison and others, are of the first excellence. Mr. Woodforde has exceeded his former merit. Young Linnel, in an exquisite *View on the Thames*, bids fair to rival the finest Dutch landscape painters. Owen, Lawrence and Shee will encrease the estimation of the tasteful. Turner's *Apothecary's Shop* has an admirable effect. These and many others give a character of encreased excellence to the Exhibition of this year.

BRITISH INSTITUTION.

The severity of statuary will rarely admit of the familiar. Mr. Rossi has however surmounted this difficulty in his highly characteristic model of Content as a Cobler. We are therefore a little surprised that the Earl of Carlisle has purchased the animated model of Avarice, without that of the former, as it is, in its equally forcible expression, an admirable foil to the latter. The truth and delicacy of Miss Byrne's Fruit and Flowers, in water colours, No. 155, want nothing but the force of oils. The charms of Mr. Nollekin's Venus have influenced the hearts of all, but hitherto the pockets of none of the Amateurs. Could she, like Pygmalion's, warm into life, the Artist's demand would not have been considered exorbitant, her price would have been above rubies; but 1500 guineas for exquisitely chiselled marble "must give us pause."

Mr. DAVISON, so popular among the British Artists for his generous patronage, has given Mr. DEVIS another order for a subject from the English History, which he has commenced. It will represent the meeting of the Barons and Clergy at Bury St. Edmund's, to sanction, by oath, their determination of compelling King JOHN to confirm Magna Charta. The painting will be enriched by the portraits of the present representatives of those Barons who were present at so memorable a circumstance. This is a subject which must animate the breast of a Briton with patriotism. He cannot reflect on the Magna Charta, without admiring the wisdom of our ancestors which planned, and the courage which carried into effect, our glorious Constitution, a bulwark against the attacks of regal despotism and infuriate faction; guarding alike the peoples' rights and the Monarch's throne.

THE LATE MR. GOLDSMID.

Some of the Papers have dwelt on the *unfounded insinuations* respecting the death of Mr. GOLDSMID, but it is always a consequence of mystery to create suspicion.—How does the case stand?—A report is current that a wealthy and respectable man in a fit of jealousy terminated his existence by hanging himself. A Coroner's Inquest is held on the body, but the particulars are most anxiously concealed from the public eye, contrary to the express design of the law; his connections circulating at great pains and expence a false statement of the *cause* of his death, which was declared to have been the gout. If unfounded insinuations are spread abroad, why are not the facts

publicly avowed? Why does not the Coroner do his duty to the public by publishing the evidence as given on the Inquest? What, in fact, is the *motive* for such concealment? It is unusual, and it is evidently improper.—There can be no good reason therefore for withholding from the public the facts relative to the cause and completion of this melancholy affair, which are stated to be as follow:—

Mr. Hamerton, a gentleman about 38 years of age, of the Christian persuasion, had resided many years in the family of Mr. B. Goldsmid, not only in the respectable capacities of Steward and Tutor, but in the more confidential one of friend, for he held valuable land for Mr. Goldsmid, the Jews being unjustly debarred this common privilege of their fellow subjects. For a considerable time preceding the tragic event, the conversations between Mr. and Mrs. Goldsmid are stated to have been characterized by a want of harmony unknown before. On the Friday preceding his death, a dispute was overheard between them as they were walking in the grounds, respecting the dismissal of Mr. Hamerton, and Mrs. Goldsmid, it is said, exclaimed with emotion, "If Mr. H. *leaves the house, so must I.*" It is however proper to state, that Mr. G. was a man who sullied an otherwise most amiable disposition by frequent bursts of passion. The serenity of his mind, like the clear calm of a Summer sky, was often suddenly and tempestuously disturbed; but the gust was soon over, and he fulfilled all the relative and social duties of life with the expansive benevolence of a philanthropist, with the animated affections of a husband, brother, father, and friend. His character shines with more than diamond brilliancy in the tear that, prompt from the heart, glistens in the eye of his numerous friends, and the poor. Roehampton mourns his loss.

On Sunday evening he ordered his carriage to be in readiness by nine o'clock on Monday morning. Mrs. G. slept in a different room from that occupied by Mr. G. A man servant slept in the same chamber with her husband. Being afflicted with the gout, a silk cord was suspended from the bed's top, by which he changed his position and raised himself. About eight on Monday morning he ordered the servant to go and expedite the carriage. This was the awful and approaching moment of the catastrophe, for on his return he found the door bolted within. He repeatedly requested admittance, but no answer being returned, his suspicions were awakened, and he immediately gave the alarm to Mrs. Goldsmid and Mr. Hamerton, who burst open the door, when the dreadful spectacle presented itself of Mr. G.'s suspension by the silk cord, and apparently lifeless. Assistance was immediately imparted, but the pulse of life was stopt, and the anxious spirit which fluttered within was fled. Peace go along with it.

Though Mr. Goldsmid's death occurred early on Monday morning, it was not till Wednesday afternoon the Coroner held his Inquest, which continued but a short period, and of which the particulars have been studiously concealed. They gave the usual humane verdict of *Lunacy*—which though certainly not apparently warranted by the facts, few will be disposed to quarrel with, when it is considered that the property of a person killing himself when *sane* is forfeited to the Crown; so that the affliction of an innocent family would be encreased by all the horrors of poverty.

Mrs. Goldsmid is about 44 years of age. Mr. Goldsmid was about 55. His wife has produced him seven children (five sons and two daughters), the eldest son, a fine young man about 19, lately forsook the Jewish faith, and was naturalized. He is an Officer in the Putney Corps. Mr. Goldsmid's wife and family were by no means strict in their observance of the customs of their people. He had often observed; that he was the last Jew of his branch of the Goldsmids.

The High Priest has not permitted the remains of Mr. Goldsmid to be deposited within, but they have been interred without their burial ground.

The following is the substance of Mr. Goldsmid's will, which was made some years since, and therefore cannot possibly convey his last feelings in regard to the persons mentioned in it:—

THE WILL.—His two brothers, Messrs. A. and E. Goldsmid, are appointed his executors. To his widow he has bequeathed 5000l. in cash; the interest of 25,000l. for her life, which sum is to be invested in the Three per Cent. Consols; 3000l. per annum for the maintenance of each of his seven children; the use of the mansion at Roehampton, together with the estate annexed to it, until the eldest son attains the age of 25 years. He has also left her all his jewels, plate, wine, carriages, horses, live and dead stock, growing crops, &c.—Mrs. Goldsmid is also allowed the privilege of disposing by will to the amount of 5000l. If she, at any time, chooses to quit Roehampton for another residence, a farther sum of 250l. per annum is bequeathed her. To each of his two daughters he has left 7,500l. besides 1000l. to be paid on the day of her marriage. To his nieces he has bequeathed 500l. each; to his brothers, and other relations, he has left small legacies, as a token of his remembrance. He has remembered the London Hospital, and several other charitable institutions. To his eldest son he has left a legacy of 4000l.; and he is also to share in the residue of his property with his four brothers, a moiety of which is to be paid them at the age of 21, and the other when they have attained their 25th year. His steward, the children's tutor, and all the domestics, have been remembered by him.

NEW DUTIES OF ASSESSED TAXES.

The Bill for imposing new Duties of Assessed Taxes has just been printed. The following are the principal:—

WINDOWS.—IN ENGLAND.

Six to pay	£0	6	6	13 to pay	£5	6	7
7	1	0	0	14	6	3	6
8	1	13	0	15	7	0	0
9	2	2	0	16	7	17	0
10	2	16	0	18	9	10	6
11	3	12	0	19	10	7	6
12	4	9	6	21	11	4	6

The scale ascends to 180 windows, which are to pay 93l. 2s. 6d.

INHABITED DWELLING-HOUSES.

5l. and under 20l. by the year, 1s. 6d. in the Pound.
20l. and under 40l. ..... 2s. 3d.
40l. and upwards ..... 2s. 10d.

MALE SERVANTS.—(A year for each Servant.)

1 Servant	£2	4	0	7 Servants	£4	16	0
2	2	16	0	8	5	3	0
3	3	7	0	9	5	12	0
4	3	18	0	10	6	3	0
5	4	9	0	11 and upwards	7	1	1
6	4	14	0				

For every Servant retained or employed by any male person not having been married, over and above the before-mentioned duties, the further sum of	1	14	0
For every Gardener or person employed to work in any garden, under any person chargeable to the duties mentioned in the Schedule relative to Male Servants; and for every Gardener employed in any garden wherein the constant labour of one person shall not be necessary, the sum of	0	6	0
For every Traveller or Rider	2	8	0
Where more than one, for each	2	10	0
For every Clerk employed	1	4	0
More than one, for each	2	8	0
Shopmen, Warehousemen, Porters, or Cellarmen, except Apprentices	1	4	0
For every Waiter	2	5	0
Male Servant kept by Stable-keeper	1	4	0
Male Servant retained for husbandry, manufacture, or trade, and at any time employed in any domestic employment, in any of the capacities in Schedule relative to Footmen, Groom, Butler, &c.	0	6	0
For every Male Servant retained for husbandry, manufacture, or trade, and at any time employed at Groom, Stable-Boy, or Helper, where the master shall be chargeable for one horse and no more	0	6	0
For Coachman, Groom, Postillion, or Helper, kept for the purpose of hire	2	4	0

CARRIAGES.

1 Four Wheel Car.	11	5	0	6	15	3	0
2.....for each	12	7	0	7	15	14	0
3	13	10	0	8	16	5	0
4	14	0	0	9	16	16	0
5	14	12	0				

And for every additional Body used on the same Carriage, or number of Wheels	2	12	0
Every Carriage less than four Wheels, except Taxed Carts, drawn by one horse	5	18	0
Drawn by two horses	8	5	0
And for every additional Body	2	16	0
Carriages let to Hire having four Wheels	9	9	0
Stage Coaches	9	9	0
Taxed Carts, with less than four Wheels	1	6	6

HORSES.

1 Horse	2	13	6	8	5	10	0
2.....for each	4	9	6	9	5	12	0
3	4	18	6	10	5	17	6
4	5	2	0	For 20 and upwards	6	1	0
5	5	3	0	Horses to hire—for each	2	13	6
6	5	7	6				
7	5	10	0	Race Horses	2	13	6

Husbandry Horses, kept by any person occupying a farm at rack rent, the rent of which shall be less than 20l. a year	0	2	10

DOGS.

Where two or more Dogs are kept	0	11	6
Where only one	0	7	0

HAIR POWDER.

Every person	1	1	6

HORSE DEALERS.

In London and Westminster, an annual duty of	22	10	0
In any other part of Great Britain	11	5	0

ARMORIAL BEARINGS, &c.

By persons keeping a coach	2	8	4
Not keeping a coach, but chargeable to the duties on inhabited houses	1	4	0
Not chargeable to such duties	0	12	0
Gamekeepers	1	1	0
Not Gamekeepers	3	3	0

COURT OF KING'S BENCH.

Tuesday, April 26.

BISH v. DECHEMANT.

This was an action for differences in transactions in the Stock Exchange, amounting to two thousand pounds and upwards.

Sir VICARY GIBBS stated, that the plaintiff was an eminent stock-broker, and the defendant a dentist of celebrity. He was also a foreigner, and having, by the art of making artificial teeth, amassed considerable property, he fancied, by applying himself to the art of stock jobbing, he should be able at once to obtain great wealth. He therefore desired the plaintiff to purchase him Script to the amount of 40,000l. imagining, as Lord Lauderdale was then negociating with the French Government, that a peace would take place, and he should become a great gainer by the speculation; the result, however, proved the reverse, and finding himself a loser instead of a gainer, he refused to pay the differences at the settling day, and the plaintiff was fixed with the loss. The Learned Counsel added, that he should prove the transactions to have been *bona fide* purchases, and should be entitled to a verdict.

The nephew of the plaintiff proved the orders given by the defendant for the purchases of the stock, and several Stock-brokers were called to prove the nature of the transactions. Considerable confusion, however, ensued as to whether the bargains were purchases outright, or only bargains for time; and as the one is legal and the other illegal, it was agreed to leave the case to reference on that point. If legal, then the plaintiff to have a verdict; if not, then to be nonsuited.

RAMSBOTTOM v. LEWES AND ANOTHER.

This was an action on a bill of exchange, and the defence was, that it had been indorsed by one partner after the other had committed an act of bankruptcy, by quitting the realm. The bankrupts were Messrs. Moffatt and Brown. On the 20th of October Moffatt left London; on the 16th of November Brown indorsed the note in question into the hands of the plaintiff, as a security for monies drawn; and on the 2d of December the firm of Moffatt and Brown were declared bankrupts. It was admitted, if Moffatt had quitted England to delay or defeat his creditors, or that such a result would have been the inevitable consequence of his departure, then he had committed an act of bankruptcy, and his partner could not indorse an acceptance to any creditor, so as to render it available in the hands of the creditor. It turned out, however, that Moffatt left London with another man's wife, and fled to Gottenburgh for the purpose of his adulterous connection, and not to delay or defeat his creditors; consequently it was not held to be an act of bankruptcy, and the plaintiff obtained a verdict for the amount of his bill.

POLICE.

BOW-STREET.

The following curious circumstance was on Tuesday investigated at this Office:—J. Moody, a soldier in the 2d battalion of the Coldstream Guards, called on Mr. Beal, of the Feathers public-house, Hart-street, Covent-garden, and displaying a handful of guineas, told him he had actually more money than he knew what to do with. Mr. Beal questioned him how he came by it, when he stated, that in Fleet-street, that morning, an elderly gentleman, in a Yorkshire dialect, addressed him familiarily, and asked him to hold his purse till he returned, which would be in a short time; that he then went into a house (supposed to be a brothel) with a girl; that he waited on the spot four hours, but the gentleman did not return. Mr. Beal, with a neighbour, then accompanied the soldier to the house described, in Black Horse-court, Fleet-street, but the people denied having seen such a person, and referred them to another house in the Court, but without success. They then returned to Mr. Beal's, when he pre-

vailed on the soldier to ascertain what sum he had, which proved to be 180 guineas, 50l. in bank notes, and a promissory note, due on Tuesday, for 50l. They then repaired to Mr. Wright's banking-house, who refused to take charge of it, but recommended them to apply to Bow-street, where the soldier persisted in his story, and said, he had no more money; but, on being searched, cash to the amount of 6l. 10s. 6d. was found, and he was ordered to be detained till the business can be further investigated.

On Thursday, J. Moody, the soldier, was put to the bar, when J. Bowden, a journeyman carpenter, stated that he had lost a sum similar to that found on the prisoner; that he had been six years saving a part of the sum by task-work; the remainder was lent him by his uncle and brother, for the purpose of taking a public-house; and he was in treaty for the King's Arms, opposite Shoreditch Church, for which he was to pay 750l. That Messrs. Goodwin and Co. porter-brewers, Mr. Charington, ale-brewer, and a distiller, were to assist him with the money he was deficient of. He had received from Mr. Charington a 50l. note, which answered the description of one found on the soldier. Last Monday the treaty was to have been carried into effect; he put 320l. tied up in a red handkerchief, into his pocket; in the course of the day he had been with a great number of persons to consult, and drank to excess, so much so, that he had no recollection of any occurrence. On Tuesday morning he found himself at the Three Compasses, in Drury-lane, in company with a girl and a soldier; he drank with them; at this time he had his money; but the purl and gin overcame him, and he lost his senses again.

The Magistrate said he was afraid he had no recollection of the subject, but he alledged that he was sufficiently collected on Tuesday morning to know he had the money, and that he, the girl, and a soldier went out of the house together, and he believed the prisoner to be the man.

Mr. READ ordered the business to stand over for a further investigation.

Isaac Dawberry, the coachman, was put to the bar, who is charged, with several others, with a violent assault upon Margaret West, in a stable, in Duke-street. The account she now gave, differed very materially from that she gave when the prisoner was first apprehended; yet, with respect to the outrage, it remains the same. She then stated, she was servant to Mr. Lumley, and that her master had sent her to hire a single-horse chaise to the stable-yard in Duke-street. This proved not to be the case; and, in explanation of her contradictory account, she said she was then so much agitated, both in body and mind, that she did not know what she said. The history is as follows —The prosecutrix had left the service of Mr. Lumley. On Palm Sunday morning early, she went into the country with a young woman. In passing along the road, they saw a number of single-horse chaises, and their conversation turned upon the comfort of riding in them, and upon the price charged per day; one said it was a guinea, and the other 15s. and at length they laid a shilling, which was the price. On the morning the outrage was committed, she passed through Duke-street, when, seeing the livery-stable, she recollected her wager, and she made inquiries of a man who was standing at the corner of the stable-yard, who told her he would take her to his master, and asked her to have something to drink; she refused, but he said she should have some ale and brandy, and he got her into the house; she refused to drink, and wanted to go on, but the man and some others prevented her, and in the scuffle the table, with the ale, was upset; the landlord and landlady abused them, and desired that she might be turned out, which was what she wanted.—She was knocked down immediately on her being forced into the stable, and her head went against a horse's foot; the fellows apologised, and sent her into the loft, under pretence of seeing their master; but on her getting there, she discovered he was not in the place, and was running down stairs, but was prevented. The treatment she afterwards received cannot be detailed. At length she lost her senses, and it is supposed they thought she was dead, for when she came to herself she found she had been put into a bye corner in the loft, covered with hay, and was so unwell she could hardly move; she only saw the prisoner remaining; he appeared surprised to see her move; he made use of a deal of abusive language, and was driving her out of the stable when the Officer arrived.

Mr. Robinson, the Churchwarden of St. Clement's, was bound over to carry on the prosecution, as was the Vestry Clerk to conduct it.

ACCIDENTS, OFFENCES, &c.

EXTRAORDINARY ATTEMPT AT SUICIDE.—On Tuesday evening, about seven o'clock, a boy about ten years old, who is the son of a poor woman in Hungerford-street, in the Strand, having told his mother an untruth, and persisted in it, she gave hime time to consider of altering his declaration, or being chastised. The boy, however, went into the bed-room, wrote a letter to his mother, and slipped out of the house unperceived by any one. The mother, shortly after that, followed him to the water-side; when she found that some boys, who were at play near Hungerford-market, had prevented him from drowning himself in the Thames; his intention of doing which he had stated in his letter that he left behind him.

CHILD STEALING.—A little boy, three years of age, son of Mrs. Walcot, of Duke-street, Mary-le-bone, was stolen from his mother's door on Monday evening, and the parent was left to mourn her loss until ten o'clock on Tuesday morning, when the poor child was found literally naked in the street from which he had been taken away.—Part of the child's garments were traced to the shop of a pawnbroker, where 3s. had been lent on them; but the miscreant who thus, for the sake of a very paltry consideration, tortured the feelings of the parent, has not yet been discovered. She is described as a decent-looking elderly woman, and it is to be hoped she will be found.

MARRIAGES.

On Sunday, Mr. Edw. Bignal, to Miss Margaret Wilson, both of Chapellerton, and on the following morning the blooming bride presented her lord and master with a fine chubby boy. For a moment we hesitated whether the births or marriages ought to be honoured with this article, but our choice was soon determined by the reflection, that marriage ought, in all propriety, to take the *precedency*.

On Tuesday morning, at St. George's, Bloomsbury, Temple-Bowdoin, Esq. brother of Sir Grenville Temple, Bart. to Mary, eldest daughter of T. Dickason, Esq. of Montague-street, Russell-square.

On Monday, at Mary-le-bonne Church, C. W. Taylor, Esq. M. P. for Wells, to Charlotte, second daughter of J. Thomson, Esq. of Waverley Abbey, Surrey.

DEATHS.

At his house, at Clapham, Mr. G. Taylor, banker, of Bartholemew-lane.

At Lisbon, in the 74th year of his age, C. Murray, Esq. of Philiphaugh, and many years his Britannic Majesty's Consul, at Madeira.

On Friday, the 5th inst. at her father's house, in the 21st year of her age, Miss Mary Ann Hill, daughter of Mr. Peter Hill, of Gerrans. She went to bed on Thursday night, apparently in perfect health, was taken ill about half past two, and expired about half after four o'clock the ensuing morning.

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